

**TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS'  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACUPUNCTURE**

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**POLICY STATEMENT: Certification Requirements for Auricular Detoxification Specialists  
(ADS)**

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Due to apparent ambiguity, the Advisory Committee on Acupuncture interprets TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. 0880-12-.05(1)(f) in accordance with the following:

- The rule speaks to the practice<sup>1</sup> of an auricular detoxification specialist (hereinafter "ADS"), rather than the certification<sup>2</sup> of an ADS. As such, the following requirements must be met before an ADS may lawfully engage in the practice of auricular detoxification and not before he or she may qualify for certification:
  - The practice of an ADS is limited to a hospital, clinic or treatment facility that provides comprehensive alcohol and substance abuse or chemical dependency services, including counseling.
  - All ADS must practice under the supervision of a licensed acupuncturist or medical doctor. Supervision by the acupuncturist or medical doctor does not require employment in the same hospital, clinic or treatment facility.
- The rule does not require that an applicant be employed prior to certification as an ADS; however documentation of these requirements must be provided to the Committee's Administrative Office before the commencement of practice.

An individual must be certified before he or she may lawfully engage in the practice of auricular detoxification.

**This policy is adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015 by the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Acupuncture.**

**This policy is adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015 by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners.**

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<sup>1</sup> Practice refers to the active practice of an ADS who is certified to provide auricular detoxification services.

<sup>2</sup> Certification refers to the authority conferred by the Committee to an individual which empowers him or her to engage in the practice of auricular detoxification.